Dublin, December 21. 1861

My dear Mr May,

It is time for me to acknowledge receipt of the large box which reached me safe and sound. I suppose in consequence of the recent repeal of the Paper Duty, the charges were no more than 7 or 8 shillings for delivery, &c. I have taken great pains to deliver the contents as effectually as possible. I wrote to several persons for lists of names, but got little help in this way, and had to trust to my own wits such as they are for the greater number. I got a list not a very recent one of the Young Men's Christian Associations in England, Scotland & Ireland, & sent one to such of them as have libraries. This will be likely to secure them an extensive reading. I have had correspondence with Thomas Hughes who sent me a few names. All the anti-slavery people of reputation whose names are known to me have got copies except a few to whom I can send them without expense. I find the book post the promptest, most effective & cheapest way. Still it will cost several pounds.

However all this cost will be covered more than covered by a donation of the Dublin Ladies Anti Slavery Society of Five Pounds expressly for the circulation of the Standard which you can acknowledge in this way. I have also got one pound from my brother James H. Webb to go to the Festival Fund. In the money I sent you were Four ~~pounds~~ guineas, one from Miss H. Martineau, two from Mrs Geo. Martineau and one ~~pound~~ from Mrs Henry Turner which you had better hand directly to the treasurer of the Am. A. S. Society, as the money was sent by Harriet who being a fast friend of Mrs Chapman might prefer that any thing sent through her should go as Mrs Chapman herself wd. appropriate it. I only mention this prudentially, for I got no orders about it.

I felt unwilling in this crisis of the cause to abandon the Advocate & I proposed to Miss Estlin to take the whole risk on myself if she would give me some small annual grant to help me on. She has however decided to continue as before for some months longer. I know we can do but little – but we may as well try to do that little.

What an extraordinarily good man was Francis Jackson & how interesting are the particulars respecting him in the Liberator & Standard. At any other time I would like an advocate with them to show what a model man was the fast friend of the abolitionists — & himself one of the foremost of the glorious band.

It is quite wonderful how decidedly the American & the English people have taken their stands on the Trent affair. I never knew such unanimity in England, and the general sentiment is that the conduct of Captain Wilkes was ~~[illegible]~~ both illegal & unwise & that if the President & government stand by him they show a total incapacity to look at the affair as the United States would have done had the San Jacinto been our ship & [illegible] the Trent steamer. I hope the matter may be ended without war — but it will be almost a miracle if it do — considering the antecedents of the two countries and the great manifestation & vast preparations of England for ~~[illegible]~~ the defence of Canada. The Royal Guards have gone out — & this ~~[illegible]~~ is always a sign that our government is in earnest. Mason & Slo. are doubtless great villains & a great prize but I doubt if they will be worth all it may cost to catch hold of them in such a fashion.

I think a great deal of the misapprehension resulting from the fact that ships have fitted out for the service of the North & the South in England, has arisen from the mistakes you make as to the limits of law in England. As I am assured it is not the business of our government to interfere with the ordinary operations of trade & commerce in our ports for the defence of belligerents in other countries — & that there was nothing to hinder ships taking in arms for any port say in South America or in Europe ~~to~~ on the presumption that they would take them to the United States North or South. If they attempt to run the blockade on your shores that is their own affair & they will get no protection here. Every Anti Slavery paper I get exhibits on the part of individuals & parties & even of the Federal government an amount of virtual proslavery complicity & want of anti slavery principle at once sorrowfully disheartening & annoying.

Your draft for £18.2.1 has come to hand & must have crossed one which I sent you in which I deducted for the 160 John Brown. Mr Lowe has given credits for the several amounts as you have mentioned them, & has credited the Am. A.S. for John Brown. He encloses a copy

Ms. B.1.6 v.15, p.79

ordered

Will you please stop the Standard hitherto sent to Miss Elizabeth Hatcher, Leigh, Lancashire.

All the friends of peace are making active efforts to reach the ears of the Government & the country so as to stay the hand of war. It is felt to be every way deplorable that there should be a ~~free~~ war between England & the Free States more especially now that you are committed to the side of Freedom & that our real interests as well as our general sympathies are on your side. The general feeling is that if the affront put on us by Captain Wilkes were passed over ~~that~~ we must at once give over any idea of British dignity & national independence. Tell me how it strikes you.

I would be much obliged by any information about your son's doings at the seat of war. If you conquer the South how will you hold them? and how will you reach the slaves in the far South West? How will you govern the South on republican principles? And is there no way of controlling your rowdy Irish in New York & elsewhere who have hitherto had such control in your elections. We think this a most mischievous & dangerous element in your population

Yours ever affectionately Richd D Webb

If you could send a copy of John Brown
to "Theodore Eugene Saliot and Hannah
" Saliot, Franklin Mills, Portage County,
" Ohio, with the love of Richard D. Webb
" and Hannah Webb, Dublin, Dec. 21. 1861"
you will much oblige. I suppose you can
send it by book post which with the cost
of the book you can charge to me.

Theodore was an old friend & schoolfellow
of mine & I was when a boy, many years
over head & ears in love with ~~my~~ his
wife who is my dear wife's dear friend
& cousin German. Theodore is a French
man & a man of great attainments. His
daughter is now on a visit over here.

MS.B.1.6 v.16 p.79